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## 35. NOTES ON SOME PLANTS RECORDS FOR BENGAL

In course of floristic study of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, several rare and interesting plants were collected from different forest areas of the district. While examining the previously collected materials held at Herb (CAL) and the present collections from the district. I came across different taxa not recorded earlier in the Flora of West Bengal. This note is in continuation of previous communications on the distribution of plants in Jalpaiguri district and notes on some species (Sikdar 1976, 1979 & 1981 and Sikdar & Ghosh 1978 & 1979a, b). The occurrence of seven more taxa in the district is recorded here with annotations.

## MENISPERMACEAE

*Pycnarrhena pleniflora* (Wall.) Miers., Contrib. 3:553. t. 141. 1871; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1:106. 1872; Prain, Bengal Plants 1:136. 1903 (repr.); Kanjilal *et al.*, Fl. Assam 1(i): 58. 1934. *Cocculus planiflorus* Wall. Cat. n. 4961. 1831, *nom. nud.* *Pycnarrhena planiflora* Hook. f. & Thoms., Fl. Ind. 206. 1855.

A woody climbing shrub; leaves 12-15.5 × 3.2-5.5 cm, alternate, oblong-lanceolate, glabrous and shining above, bluntly acuminate, nerves arching near the margin; flowers yellowish-white, dioecious, in fascicles from the leaf-

axils; male in short congested panicles, females 1-2 flowered; fruit ± 1.2 cm, greenish, smooth.

*Specimens examined*: Gosaihat, Moraghat range, fl. & frt., 3rd Jun. 1975, *Sikdar* 461; Titi, Madarihat range, fl. & frt., 2nd Mar. 1976, *Sikdar* 4475; fl. & frt., 5th Mar. 1976, *Sikdar* 4529; fl. & frt., 6th Mar. 1976, *Sikdar* 4556.

Common particularly near the foothills of Titi area, sometimes along the forest fringe, occasionally associated with *Hiptage madhoblota*, *Boehmeria malabarica*, *Ardisia solanacea* etc.

This species is found in Bhutan, Bangladesh, China and in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Mizoram in India. Prain (i.c.) reported it from Chittagong (Bangladesh).

## ASCLEPIADACEAE

*Ceropegia angustifolia* Wight, Contrib. Ind. Bot. 31. 1834; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4:72. 1883; Kanjilal *et al.*, Fl. Assam 3:308. 1939; Huber, Mem. Soc. Biol. 12(1):203. 1957; Raizada, Suppl. copy of Duthies Fl. Upper Gangetic plain 149. 1976.

An extensive climber, pubescent; leaves 5-18 × 0.8-1.6 cm, narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, with decurved margin, coriaceous; ped-

uncles 3-5 flowered; corolla tube purplish; corona of  $\pm$  10 lanceolate ciliate lobes.

*Specimens examined*: Mahakalguri, Alipurduars, fl., 26th Sept. 1891, E. A. Heawood *Esqr.* 73; East of Chalsa, Jalpaiguri, fl., 25th Aug. 1908, I. H. Burkill 30788.

Grows in dense forest under shade.

It has been reported so far from Sikkim, Khasi hills and Dehra Dun only. It is worth recording the extension of its distribution further south-westward in the northern plain tract of West Bengal.

**Hoya obcordata** Hook. f. in *Fl. Brit. India* 4:56. 1883.

Herb with branched, creeping and rooting stem; leaves 1.2 cm long, obcordate, tip rounded or with a slight notch, base rounded; flowers in loose peduncled umbel.

*Specimens examined*: On way to Sinchula,  $\pm$  1700 m, Buxaduar range, fl., 2nd May 1934, K. Biswas 2001.

A rare species known only from Sikkim Himalaya.

#### ORCHIDACEAE

**Ascocentrum micranthum** (Lindl.) Holtt., *Gard. Bull.* 11:275. 1947; *Orch. Malaya* 1:735. 1953; Rao & Balakrishnan in *Rec. Bot. Surv. India* 20(2): 205. 1973; Babu, *Herb. Fl. Dehra Dun* 480. 1977. *Saccolabium micranthum* Lindl. *Gen. Sp. Orch.* 220. 1833; Hook. f., *Fl. Brit. India* 6:59. 1890. *Cleisostoma micrantha* (Lindl.) King & Pantling in *Ann. R. Bot. Gard. Calc.* 8:231, t. 312. 1898; Prain, *Bengal Plants* 2:768. 1903 (repr.); Duthie, *Fl. Upper Plain* 2:293. 1903 (repr.).

Small epiphyte with stout compressed stem; leaves 7-12 cm long, narrowly oblong, unequally and obtusely 2-lobed; flowers small, pinkish-white, usually pink on the tip, arranged in small lateral dense-flowered racemes.

*Specimens examined*: Buxaduar, 850 m,

Buxaduar range, fl., 14th May 1976, *Sikdar* 4665; Buxa to Bhutan road, 1150 m, fl., 17th Mar. 1949, V. Narayanswami 2647.

Occasional, rather restricted to the Buxaduar hills over 700 m alt., growing on *Spathodia campanulata*, *Duabanga grandiflora* etc.

It is usually found in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sikkim, Assam, Naga Hills, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in India. Prain (*l.c.*) mentioned its distribution in Chota Nagpur.

**Pholidota articulata** Lindl. var. **griffithii** (Hook. f.) King & Pantling in *Ann. R. Bot. Gard. Calc.* 8:147, t. 204. 1898; Rao & Balakrishnan in *Rec. Bot. Surv. India* 20(2):216. 1973; Babu, *Herb. Fl. Dehra Dun* 1977. *Pholidota griffithii* Hook. f., *l.c. Pl.* 9:t. 1811. 1889 ('griffithii'); *Fl. Brit. India* 5:845. 1890; Hara, *Fl. East. Himal.* 193. 1971.

Epiphytic stout herbs, branched with 6-12 cm long furrowed internodes; leaves 7.5-8.5  $\times$  2.5-3.0 cm, narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 2-from the nodes, young ones sheathed at the base; flowers 5 cm across, white tinged with brown and pink, in 2.5-5 cm long decurved racemes.

*Specimens examined*: Way to Buxaduar, 750 m, Buxaduar range, fl., 12th May 1976, *Sikdar* 4615; Buxa to Bhutan road, 1200 m, fl., 16th May 1949, V. Narayanswami 2559; Tobgaon, 1400 m, fl., 18th May 1949, V. Narayanswami 2709 & 2731.

Frequent, restricted to the Buxaduar hills. It has been reported from Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim in the Eastern Himalayas and Khasi hills and Uttar Pradesh.

#### CYPERACEAE

**Carex japonica** Thunb., *Fl. Jap.* 38. 1784; C. B. Clarke in Hook. f., *Fl. Brit. India* 6:736. 1894.

A glabrous sedge; rhizome with brown

scales; stem stout, 3-winged with stolons; leaves as long as the stem; spikes 5, close together.

*Specimen examined*: Gajalduba, Apalchand range, fl. & frt., 26th Apr. 1962, S. K. Mukerjee 5580.

It occurs in Nepal, Japan and in India in the Sikkim Himalaya, Khasi hills, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh.

*Cyperus substramineus* Kuk. Pfl. R. Heft 101:398. 1936; Kern in Fl. Males. Ser. I, 7(3): 653. 1974. *C. stramineus* Nees in Wight, Contr. 74. 1834, non Desf. 1820. *Pycreus stramineus* C. B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6:589. 1893; Prain, Bengal Plants 2:855. 1903 (repr.).

A tufted annual sedge with spicate congested inflorescence.

CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM,  
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
P. O. BOTANIC GARDEN,  
HOWRAH-711 103 (W.B.),  
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*Specimen examined*: Near Buxaduars, Buxaduar range, fl. & frt., 2nd Feb. 1934, K. Biswas 2037.

It often grows in grassy localities.

It is found in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma and Malay peninsula and also reported from Orissa, Assam, Khasi hills, Karnatak, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman Island.

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## 36. CULTIVATION OF ENDANGERED PLANTS IN SOUTH INDIA

(With a plate)

## INTRODUCTION

The Experimental Garden of B.S.I., Southern Circle, Yercaud has been introducing and cultivating some of the endangered plants of the country.

*Nepenthes khasiana* Hook. f. erected as a species from the Khasi hills of the present Meghalaya by J. D. Hooker in 1893, is now treated as endangered due to its restricted distribution in the country and absence from any other part of the world. The genus *Nepen-*